

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, AR
SUBJECT: (1) ARGENTINE METAL WORKERS TO REAFFILIATE WITH IMF;
(2) INTERVENTOR TERMINATES LOCAL OFFICERS' MANDATES

REF: STATE 44816

1. BEFORE DEPARTING FROM BUENOS AIRES, HERMAN RABHAN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS FEDERATION, INFORMED US THAT THE ARGENTINE METALWORKERS UNION (UOM) HAD DECIDED TO REAFFILIATE WITH THE IMF. THE UOM IS CURRENTLY INTERVENED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES. UNION SOURCES TELL US THAT FORMAL REAFFILIATION WILL HAVE TO AWAIT THE DAY WHEN THE UNION IS IN CHARGE AGAIN OF ITS WON AFFAIRS, BUT THAT UNION CAPO DE TUTTI LORENZO MIGUEL, FROM HIS JAIL CELL, HAS GIVEN HIS NOD AND THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT AMONG THE UNION'S TOP LEADERS. ACCORDING TO ALBERTO CAMPOS, ONE OF MIGUEL'S LIEUTENANTS WHO HAS WORKED HARD WITHIN THE UNION FOR THE REAFFILIATION, THE UOM IS FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES ALREADY REAFFILIATED "IN SPIRIT" EVEN THOUGH THE FORMAL ACT WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL UNION AFFAIRS ARE NORMALIZED. CAMPOS SAID THERE WOULD BE A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED TO THIS EFFECT.
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2. AS CAMPOS TELLS IT, UOM DISAFFILIATED A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN DELEGATES AT AN IMF CONGRESS JEERED THE MENTION OF PERON'S NAME DURING A SPEECH BY A UOM REPRESENTATIVE.

3. ON A SEPARATE MATTER, UNION REPRESENTATIVES INFORM US THAT THE UOM'S MILITARY INTERVENTOR HAS ISSUED LISTS OF UNION

LOCAL ("SECCIONALES") LEADERS AROUND THE COUNTRY WHOSE UNION TERMS OF OFFICE WILL NOT BE EXTENDED BEYOND THEIR NORMAL EXPIRATION DATE. THE EFFECT OF THIS ORDER IS THAT MANY UNION OFFICERS WILL HAVE TO LEAVE THEIR UNION LOCAL OFFICES THIS WEEKEND AND ATTEMPT TO RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT. IN THE CASE OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL LOCAL, EIGHT OF THE THIRTEEN BOARD MEMBERS ARE AFFECTED, INCLUDING ITS SECRETARY GENERAL ALBERTO RODRIGUEZ. THEY ARE DOUBTFUL THEIR EMPLOYERS WILL TAKE THEM BACK. UNDER THE CURRENT LAW SUSPENDING TRADE UNION ELECTIONS AND OTHER UNION ACTIVITIES, ALL TRADE UNION LEADERS ARE FROZEN IN THEIR UNION JOBS FOR THE DURATION OF THE SUSPENSION PERIOD UNLESS THEIR MANDATES ARE TRUNCATED BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES--PRESUMABLY FOR CAUSE. HOWEVER, NO EXPLANATION HAS YET BEEN GIVEN BY THE UOM INTERVENTOR FOR THE ACTION TAKEN AGAINST THE UOM OFFICERS NAMED IN THIS ORDER. THE INTERVENTOR'S NOTIFICATION ALSO INCLUDES A STATEMENT THAT HE IS LEGALLY EMPOWERED TO NAME REPLACEMENTS FOR THOSE UNION OFFICERS WHOSE MANDATES HAVE BEEN TERMINATED.

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